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Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Security Council
Seventieth year

Identical letters dated 6 March 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, dated 5 March 2015, regarding the field exercises conducted by the Russian Federation in Georgia's occupied territories (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex issued as a document of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 33, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kaha **Imnadze**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 6 March 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia regarding the field exercises conducted by the Russian Federation in Georgia's occupied territories

On 5 March 2015, the Russian Army began simultaneous field exercises on 12 firing ranges in the Russian Federation's southern military district and in the Russian-occupied Georgian regions of Tskhinvali and Abkhazia. Different military units, including air defence divisions, are carrying out large-scale exercises, using various systems. The exercises notably involve advanced Russian military equipment such as "Igla" air defence missile complexes, "Tunguska" anti-aircraft gun and missile systems, "Shilka" anti-aircraft systems, and S-300B, "Strela-10", "Tor" and "Osa" anti-aircraft missile systems.

Over 2,000 men and 500 units of military equipment are taking part in the field exercises.

These actions of the Russian Federation represent a further infringement on Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity. They constitute a gross violation of the Constitution of Georgia, the norms and principles of international law and Russia's international commitments, including those undertaken under the ceasefire agreement of 12 August 2008, and pose a threat to peace and stability in the region.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia is extremely concerned about the matter and demands that the Government of the Russian Federation comply with the commitments it has undertaken and withdraw its armed forces from the territory of Georgia and de-occupy Georgia's regions.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia calls upon the international community to duly react to Russia's destructive steps and prevent another action aimed at further undermining Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Tbilisi, 5 March 2015